

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

8

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /076 W
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P 280808Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9105

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, CE, IPU

SUBJECT: ROK RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA

REF: (A) SEOUL 2021; (B) STATE 69112

1. MOFA ASIA BUREAU DIRECTOR O CHAE-HUI WILL ACCOMPANY
ROK IPU DELEGATION, WHICH DEPARTED MARCH 28 FOR SRI LANKA.

2. ACCORDING TO MOFA, DECISION TO DISPATCH O TO COLOMBO
WAS TAKEN IN LIGHT OF THREE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF
CONCERN TO ROKG: NORMALIZATION OF NORTH KOREA'S
RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA FOLLOWING ANURA BANDARANAIKE'S
RECENT VISIT TO PYONGYANG, RECOMMENDATION BY NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES COORDINATING GROUP IN HAVANA TO SUPPORT
ADMISSION OF NORTH KOREA TO 1976 CONFERENCE IN SRI LANKA,
AND NORTH KOREAN REQUEST FOR INSCRIPTION OF ITEM AT IPU
MEETING (REF B). MOFA SOUTHWEST ASIA DIVISION CHIEF
CHOE TONG-CHIN TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 28 THAT O WILL
PRIMARILY BE MAKING AN ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION BUT
WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS LONG-PENDING ESTABLISHMENT
OF ROK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA, WHICH
CHOE SAID IS NOW ENTIRELY UP TO GSL.

3. CHOE SAID ROK IS SURPRISED AT SPEED WITH WHICH
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COLOMBO RESTORED ITS RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG, GIVEN
REPORTED STATEMENT BY PRIMIN BANDARANAIKE EARLIER
THIS YEAR THAT RELATIONS COULD NOT BE NORMALIZED
UNTIL NORTH KOREA CLARIFIED ITS ROLE IN 1971 INSURGENCY.

HE SAID NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA IS PLANNING
TO BE IN COLOMBO DURING IPU SESSION, ALTHOUGH ROK
DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WILL BE PRESENTING HIS
CREDENTIALS AT THAT TIME OR RETURN LATER TO DO SO.

4. CHOE SAID THAT O WILL PROBABLY CALL ON AMEMBASSY
COLOMBO FOR ITS VIEWS ON SRI LANKA'S KOREA POLICY.
ERICSON

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